1: Longrigg G-4, 5 (ca. 1915-1940) MH1 Iraq MH1

country, often too rainless to produce even the minimum of grazing. It lies, equal in area to the rest of 'Iraq, in the Shamiya desert south-west and west of Euphrates, in the upper Jazira, east of Tigris below Baghdad, and above it astride the Jabal Ḥamrin. These wastes belonged to the true camel-breeding Arab nomads; their inlying fringes, near to the rivers, were the home of the half-settled shepherd sections of cultivating tribes.

The inhabitants of all these regions varied widely in the nearness of their approach to urban civilization and the reach of government. Nearest came the citizens of the towns: then the settled village-dwellers, then the tribal cultivators in their clusters of dwellings, then the marshmen, the half-settled shepherds on the desert fringe, and finally the pure bedouin. These last were and are by far the least numerous element; to regard 'Iraq as largely a bedouin territory is a common error, since much of the country has always afforded the possibility of settled life, and bedouin are found only where no other form of life is possible.

Of the population of the three wilayas, no reliable estimate could be given then or later. The census in Turkish times was conducted, with feeble and venal inefficiency, only in towns and only for conscription purposes. The figures supplied by tribesmen or urban community heads varied with their fears or hopes of liability or benefit. The wilaya of Baṣra in 1900, excluding its Arabian areas, may have contained half a million souls; that of Baghdad perhaps a million and a quarter, that of Mosul less than half a million. A total of midway between two and two and a half million people may fairly be estimated.

The races of which the population consisted, and by each of which some contribution was made, were various. Arabs formed the great majority. But who were these? The folk even of earliest Arabia were of mixed physical types, and it is as idle to look for 'racial purity' in their later offshoots as in other races of the modern world. The Arabs of 'Iraq, in 1900 as today, were Arabic-speaking "Iraqis': a unified amalgam containing physical elements of every population who, from prehistory, had entered the river valleys as invaders or immigrants, and had been assimilated to form that 'Iraqi community which Arabs of Arabia had subjugated in the seventh century A.D. and, by vigour of their arms and faith, had turned into 'Arabs' like themselves. The 'Iraqi people by the end of the nineteenth century were oblivious of—would have denied—any other cultural or ethnic associations.

Within their community the shared tradition and pride of race far outweighed, in most relationships, the differences created by variety of environment, dialect, and material interest: yet these, too, could be formidable as between town and tribe, and as between

NORTHERN 'IRAQ AND ITS PEOPLES

By MAJOR W. C. F. WILSON, O.B.E.

A lecture given before the Society on March 10, 1937, Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in introducing Major Wilson, who is going to speak to us on the subject of Northern 'Iraq and its peoples. He first served in 'Iraq under that very great officer, Sir Percy Cox, who recently passed away. Major Wilson rebuilt Kut after our victory over the Turks, and of recent years he has been administrative officer at Mosul; and can give us very up-to-date accounts of the Assyrian problem in Northern 'Iraq, and can also speak from first-hand knowledge of the Kurds and the other minorities of the country.

TOO many who have never been to 'Iraq, the name, or its old alternative, Mesopotamia, possibly conjures up visions of flat, featureless plains, strips of cultivation along the banks of the two great rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, sandstorms and a torrid climate. Such visions are in a fair measure true of central and southern 'Iraq, but are very far from applying to the two northern provinces of Arbil and Mosul.

Geography

From the Lesser Zab river northwards the country is undulating and intersected with watercourses or wādis, which after rain flow down to the Tigris and its half-dozen tributaries. This type of country extends right up to the foothills which fringe the mighty mountain mass of Kurdistan. Over this area, irrigation, except on the rivers for summer crops, is unnecessary, and the rainfall which comes between November and May is in most years sufficient for the cultivation of large crops of wheat and barley. In the spring, grazing for animals is plentiful and a wonderful assortment of wild flowers appear.

In the mountains, during the same period, heavy rain and snow fill the underground sources and provide water for the summer growing of rice, tobacco and other crops, and for good summer grazing for animals. These mountains contain several ranges 6,000 to 8,000 feet high and one peak near the Iranian frontier over 10,000 feet.

Population

The inhabitants of the two provinces consist of an extraordinarily heterogeneous collection of creeds and races with all the problems produced by such a collection.

5: Harrison D-4 (1912-1924) 1924 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

CHAPTER VI

THE ARABS OF MESOPOTAMIA

MESOPOTAMIA does not belong to Arabia geographically. It lies to the north of the peninsula and includes the territory between the mountains of Asia Minor on the north, the mountains of Persia on the east, the Syrian desert on the west and the Persian Gulf on the south. The area enclosed between these limits is enormous. These are its natural boundaries, but politically the territory included takes in certain districts that belong to Persia and Turkey as well as the kingdom of Mesopotamia. It is of interest to include Mesopotamia in any discussion of Arab life, for although the Mesopotamians are not in Arabia geographically, nor even politically, racially they are Arabs as truly as the inhabitants of Nejd or the dwellers in the valleys of Oman. Practically all of the inhabitants of Mesopotamia are Arabic speaking and Arabic in origin, the chief exceptions being the numerous Jews who have come into the country from the north and the small community of Sabaeans, or fire-worshippers, who are a remnant of the people that the Arabs found inhabiting the country. The Arab is the dominant element, and the others together would probably not amount to five per cent of the whole.

The character of the country is most easily understood if we start by saying that Mesopotamia is the enormous

28: Kappers D-5 (1929-30) 1932 MI Middle East
LEVANTINE JEWS MF4
IRAQ MH 1
— 18 — CHERKESS RH 5
KURD MA 11

ed in the empire of Saul, David and Solomon) is strongly mixed with Hebrew elements. Although their facial expression nowadays is different from the Jewish, the more hereditary—and in this case (brachycephaly)—even dominant head index has remained. That this people has also influenced the population of Mesopotamia appears from the Irakian curve in which the 80—80.9 peak characteristic of this desert border group is still outstanding (fig. 5).—

Fig. 13. Jewish types of the 9th century B.C., Jewish men bearing tribute from King Jehû to Shalmaneser II (taken from Salaman).

With the Irakians also the fleshy, curved nose seems to be more frequent (*Dr. H. Frankfort* called my attention to this). This might be due to Hittite influence, that may have affected also the aspect of the Jewish type. Hittite marriages especially in preexilic times were quite frequent (c.f. *Zedekia*). That this influence has become more pronounced with the Aschkenasim than with the Sephardim is not strange.

Whereas the Sephardim migrated away from Hittite centres, the Aschkenasim, on their Northern migration through Anatolia and the Balkans, have mixed with Armenoid blood, which explains the fact first emphasized by *von Luschan* that so many Aschkenasim have Armenoid features[1]).

I now come to a totally different sample of the Near East, the Kurds, the Caucasians and Persians.—

Here again the frequency curves bring light in many obscurities caused by the old system of using averages, which instead of emphasizing the differences between various components of a people obscures their analyses.

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1) A striking example of Armenoid influence on the Northern Jews is the fact that near lake Urmiah the Jewish head index is the same as the Armenian, as first stated by *Chantre* and confirmed by *Weissenberg*. This is not strange since we know that brachycephaly with post auricular shortness is predominent in heredity, as was proved by *Frets*.

EGYPT MR1
IRAQ MH1

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174 Menes united the two and began the dynastic period. In Upper Egypt
144 the best skeletal series of the predynastic period is from Naqada. These resemble somewhat the earlier Badarians. The Naqada men were fairly tall, 168 c.m., but their heads and faces were larger than those of the Badarians and their noses were smaller.

In Lower Egypt, the predynastic inhabitants were Mediterraneans. They had broader heads, higher cephalic indices, mean 78 %, than the people of Upper Egypt, mean 74%. During the next 3000 years, the Mediterraneans spread up the river and have largely replaced the older groups of Negroes from Upper Egypt.

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[141] Modern Copts, who most nearly represent the ancient type,
174 have diverged for the skull length has been reduced from 188 to 177 mm., and the head breadth has increased from 131 to 139 mm; the faces have increased in length from 194 to 199 mm., and there has been a narrowing of the nose. It can be stated, however, that these represent but minor changes. As Professor Morant points out, "Changes in physical type in any part of Europe within the last five hundred years have been much greater than in Egypt during five thousand."

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174 IRAQ Central and southern Iraq, like the Syrian desert is occupied
● 144 by members of the Mediterranean races. Buxton and Rice, who studied the skeletal remains at Kish dating about 3000 B.C., also studied the living inhabitants of the same area. They state "The measurements seem to indicate that the inhabitants of the Kish region, south of Baghdad, have not altered to any great degree within the last 5000 years. The Sumerians also belonged to this early long headed Mediterranean racial strain."

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141 Modern Iraqians are taller than the Arabs of Arabia, for their statures range from 168 cm. in the Kish area to 171 cm. in the region of Kirkuk. The cephalic index is around 76. The Iraqi heads are long and narrow. The total facial height is moderate except in the north where it is much higher. Particularly is that true of the upper facial height. The facial widths are also moderate, except in Kirkuk and the North where the faces are very broad. The Iraqi noses are both longer and broader than those in Arabia.

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142 The hair form of Iraqis is usually low waves, is dark brown or black. Five per cent or less have a reddish hue. The beards are much heavier than in Arabia. As in Arabia the hair color is predominantly dark brown but Iraqis have 20% of mixed light hues, such as was previously noted for some of the Syrian Bedouin.

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141 The nasal profile is usually straight. The Iraqis are not the
144 purest Mediterranean for there is a fairly strong Irano-Afghan element, as well as of the tall Atlanto-Mediterranean. There are, however, unmixed Bedouin tribes in Iraq, such as the Ba'ij, Shammar and Khamal, that are typically Mediterranean, as are those described in the Syrian and Trans-Jordan deserts.